

# NEWTON HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD AREA COUNCIL (NHNAC) NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2004

A publication of the

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

Brigham House, 20 Hartford Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

[www.ci.newton.ma.us/election/newtonhighlands/welcome.html](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/election/newtonhighlands/welcome.html)



## ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL

Hyde Community Center

Saturday, January 24, 6:00 P.M.

*Local restaurants' "Soup du Jour"*

*Hot Fudge Sundae Surprise*

The Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council is a nine-member official elected body under the City charter. Its purpose is to facilitate communication between Highlands residents and the Board of Aldermen and other City agencies. It also serves as a forum/ mechanism for local issues and for fostering community spirit through events such as Village Day, the Halloween Party and Haunted House, and the Winter Social.

*Chase away your midwinter blues and post-holiday slump with the NHNAC & CDC Annual Winter Social. The Winter Social is a wonderful way for Newton Highlands' residents to get together after the holidays. Local restaurants have participated in generously providing various soups for tasting. Sundae fixings are dessert. Beverages provided. Bring your picnic basket of soup compliments to round out the meal. This gathering is free.*

*Local vendors have included Baker's Best, Bread & Circus, Ice Cream Works, Jamjuli, Le Soir, O'Hard's, Newton Pizza House, Store 24*

### **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH INITIATIVE, PARKING NEEDS & ABUTTERS' MEETING**

The Congregational Church is exploring a potential tenant opportunity with Warmlines, an social outreach program that services parents of newborns. New Rep will be moving out to their new location in Watertown. However, there are some periodic parking needs the church would need to be a suitable site. The Area Council has arranged for a special meeting for the Church to present to interested abutters their ideas, to answer any questions and to hopefully gain support. **The informational meeting will be on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30-10:30 at the Brigham House.** Dennis Rieske will be the presenter on behalf of the Congregational Church.

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KEPT UPDATED ON NEWTON HIGHLANDS ISSUES?**

Please send us your email so we can quickly notify you of city or local meetings that might impact you that come to our attention with short notice. Send your email address to John Rice at: [jrice@tsnn.com](mailto:jrice@tsnn.com). Your email will only be used to notify you of events, activities & meetings that relate to the Newton Highlands Village.

### **HOPE FOUNTAIN & OFFICER ENGLISH GARDEN**

Thank you to the following individuals who responded to our appeal for assistance in caring & maintaining both of these lovely landmarks. Please thank them for the great volunteer service they are providing for our community. Individuals who would also like to help can contact Treasurer David Oliphant at [617-965-5287/deoliphant@yahoo.com](mailto:617-965-5287/deoliphant@yahoo.com).

**Hope Fountain care:** Bob Smith, Barbara Smiley, Paul Gilbert

**Officer English Garden care:** Yvonne Oppenheim, Linda Swope, Connie Cepko

## NHNAC HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION

On October 16, 2003 a proposal was presented by Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic to extend light rail service from the existing Green Line at Newton Highlands to the existing commuter rail at Needham Heights. The rail line would use the existing rail corridor which is parallel to Needham Street and that passes through Newton Upper Falls. The line would extend from the existing Green Line in Newton Highlands and include two stations in Newton, one being at the Newton Upper Falls Depot, one station near the Needham Industrial Park, and a final station at Needham Heights, integrating with the existing commuter rail. The new line is projected to have high utilization. It would allow improved mobility for the area and potentially reduce auto congestion on Needham Street and Route 9. Concerns about parking, safety, and other potential impacts of the line were expressed by some meeting attendees. As the proposal is better defined, these and other important issues will be addressed with full input from the community. At this point, the proposal has been endorsed by the City of Newton's Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee and has been included in the MBTA's 2003 Program for Mass Transportation.

## BRIGHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE UPDATE

Brigham Community House is a place for teens to go. Open to middle and high school boys and girls. Our hours are Wed and Thurs 4-9 pm, Fri 4-11 pm and Sat 6-11 pm. Male and female youth staff are present at all times. Brigham House is a place to meet friends, relax, listen to music or watch TV, play pool, use a computer or just do nothing with our friendly staff and your friends and other Newton teens.

Brigham Community House is a non-profit tax exempt organization supported by contributions from local businesses, foundations and individuals. Your support is very much appreciated.

Are you looking for a way to be involved in your community and help local teens? Our board of directors is expanding and seeks interested people. Call board chair Robert Staulo at 617-527-2887 or Alderman Christine Samuelson at 617-244-8789.

### ***Halloween Party & Haunted House Special Recognition and Thank You***

Thanks to many helpers, both big and small, who made last fall's Halloween Party & Haunted House a tremendous success! If we have left someone out, please accept our apologies.

**Party:** Special recognition goes to Amy Greene who has assumed the leadership of organizing this event. Amy's multiple helpers were:

Keystone Cops: Kevin Duff and Cary Frederick; Madame Maddie Fortune Teller; Mystery face paint helper Jessica Duff; Diane Shuster & her miscellaneous donut helpers, and Katheryn Murphy Anderson, Laura Fizek, Josie Greene, Davis Greene, Cynthia Manthei, Maya Meirvx, Mara Nislick, Katherine Olesky, Kara Poirer and Tracy Smith

**Haunted House:** Doug Smith, Mastermind; John Rice, Volunteer Coordinator; Kevin Osborn, David Wilson, and Steve Armitage, Builders and Engineers Extraordinaire; Nina Burke, Theme, Creative Person and actor; Bette Roth, Cathy Heller, Dan Willert, Paul Gilbert, Kathryn Denitto, Chuck Cobb, and many other adult and youth helpers.

The Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council holds open meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 PM at Brigham Community House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 20 Hartford St.

| Area Council Members  |              |                                     |              |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Janice Bourque (president)  | 617-332-0676 | Srdjan Nedeljkovic (vice president) | 617-332-1721 |
| David Oliphant (treasurer)  | 617-965-5287 | Patty Kellogg                       | 617-965-5577 |
| John Rice   | 617-332-5827 | Bob Staulo                          | 617-527-2887 |
| Ex-officio members of the NHNAC: Aldermen Christine Samuelson (5) and George Mansfield (6). |              |                                     |              |